

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3647
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2001
PREPARATION OF NATIONAL ESSENTIAL DRUGS LIST
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether preparation of National Essential Drugs list is lying pending and its implementation;
- (b) if so, the main reasons therefor;
- (c) whether WHO's essential drug list of 250 drugs is sufficient to take care of 90% of health problems in the country;
- (d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to prepare the National Essential Drugs List; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken or being taken for early preparation of drug list and its implementation?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR)

- (a) No, Sir. Government of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had already published a 'National Essential Drug List' (NDEL) in 1996 containing 279 Drugs of various categories modelled on the WHO essential drug list.
- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) The drugs included in the NDEL are expected to meet the requirement of common contemporary health needs of the general population of the country and general obligation of the health administrators to ensure abundant availability of such drugs in the country. According to WHO, essential drugs are those that satisfy the health care needs of the majority of the population.
- (d) & (e) Do not arise.